



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Klamath
National
Forest

Salmon River and Scott River Ranger Districts
11263 N. Highway 3
Fort Jones, CA 96032-9702
(530) 468-5351
(530) 468-1298 TDD

File Code: 1950
Date: July 24, 2018

Notice of Scoping Period for the Yreka Area WUI Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

Dear Reviewer:

The Forest Service is using a categorical exclusion (CE) for the proposed Yreka Area Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Hazardous Fuels Reduction project on private lands (also known as the City of Yreka WUI project). The proposed action may be categorically excluded from further analysis and documentation under 36 CFR 220.6(e)(6).

The Yreka Area WUI project was collaboratively developed by the Salmon/Scott River Ranger District (Klamath National Forest) of the Forest Service, the Yreka Area Fire Safe Council, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE), City of Yreka, private landowners and the Northern California Resource Center to reduce hazardous fuels on up to 1,200 acres of private lands adjacent to Forest boundaries west of the City of Yreka in Siskiyou County, CA. The project area includes Township (T) 44 North (N), Range (R) 8 West (W), Section 1; T 45 N, R 8 W, Sections 24-26 and 36; and T 45 N, R 7 W, Sections 3-4, 7-11, 16-21, and 29-31 of the Mt. Diablo Meridian. See the enclosed map for the project area location. The proposed project on private land is within the Greenhorn Creek, Yreka City – Yreka Creek, Long Gulch, Rocky Gulch – Yreka Creek, and Middle Fork Humbug Creek 7th field watersheds.

The existing vegetation patterns across the proposed project area are a result of wildfire and past land management activities. Historically, low intensity fires burned in the area, shaping the vegetation. However, after fire suppression became effective, stand densities and fuel loading increased substantially over the pre-suppression periods. The purpose of the project is to improve fire resiliency of private lands by reducing fuel loading and stand density to reduce the likelihood of a high intensity wildfire.

The overall project proposal is to treat about 1,200 acres of private land along the Forest boundary and between the Forest and the City of Yreka. This includes treating private lands adjacent to access roads within and adjacent to the Forest boundary and improving defensible space around structures in this high risk WUI area. Implementation of this project would be split into phases. Phase 1 of this project would focus on treatment of 260 acres about 500 feet wide on private lands bordering or within the Forest boundary that are adjacent to the Forest's Craggy Vegetation Management Project.

Proposed treatments include the removal of brush and ladder fuels above and below landowner properties to slow fire spread; creating fuel breaks by removing fuels along access roads; and continuing 100-foot defensible space fuel reduction activities around homes. Vegetation would be thinned and some vegetation would be removed that is less than ten inches in diameter at breast height to provide about 15- to 20-foot spacing between trees. Cut trees that could be used as firewood would be cut into 4- to 6-foot lengths and left in place for potential use by landowners or communities. Leave trees would be limbed to a minimum of 8 to 12 feet above the



ground. Treated fuels that are left would be hand piled and burned, ground (using a noise-reducing grinder) or chipped.

Please provide comments by August 13, 2018, so that I can consider them in the project analysis and my decision-making process. I'd also appreciate your suggestions about which specific locations should compose Phase 1 of the project. Questions or comments can be submitted electronically to Danika Carlson at dcarlson02@fs.fed.us or by phone at 530-468-1225. Written comments can be submitted via fax to 530-468-1290 or mailed to Ted O McArthur, ATTN: Danika Carlson, 11263 N. Hwy. 3, Fort Jones, CA 96032 or hand-delivered during normal business hours (8am to 4:30pm Monday-Friday, excluding holidays).

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Ted O. McArthur

DISTRICT RANGER



